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President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

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In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Agenda item 14: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/71/69, A/71/87-E/2016/67, E/2016/49 and E/2016/L.25)

1. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Chair, Special Committee on Decolonization), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations contained in document A/71/69 and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Committee contained in document E/2016/49, said that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, administering Powers must promote the peoples and interests of their non-self-governing Territories, while guiding the transition of those Territories to self-determination and independence.

2. Taking into account its importance in decolonization processes, the United Nations must act in the interests of the peoples of non-self-governing Territories in achieving that transition as soon as possible. Any delays would benefit the administering Powers that wanted to preserve the status quo. The United Nations must therefore increase its efforts to support the peoples of non-self-governing Territories in defending their culture and demography, and in developing their economies and independence-oriented political processes. United Nations Member States and specialized agencies must continue to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of non-self-governing Territories in line with their needs, while administering Powers should adopt measures to provide as much assistance as possible to strengthen the economies of those Territories.

3. Reflecting the importance of United Nations specialized agencies and international institutions in providing assistance to non-self-governing Territories, the action plans of the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism had identified the need to create concrete international aid mechanisms. Furthermore, the conclusions and recommendations of the annual regional seminar of the Special Committee on Decolonization had emphasized the challenges of the economic and environmental impact of climate change, the need to develop self-governance capabilities and the importance of continuing to strengthen administrative capacities, effective governance and economic sustainability.

4. Relevant specialized agencies and organizations at all levels should be encouraged to submit information on their activities to provide assistance in non-self-governing territories. Similarly, specialized agencies within the United Nations system should promote increased distribution of information among members of the Special Committee on Decolonization, particularly in its regional seminars. Regrettably, none of the agencies invited had attended the Pacific Regional Seminar held in Managua in 2016, which benefited neither the inhabitants of non-self-governing Territories nor the self-determination process.

5. Non-self-governing Territories had specific problems in planning for and achieving sustainable development, and therefore required the continuous cooperation and assistance of specialized organizations, including those in the United Nations system. In that regard, the excessive exploitation of the natural resources of those territories by administering Powers was concerning, as it not only violated the rights and sovereignty the peoples of non-self-governing territories over their resources under United Nations resolutions, inter alia General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, but also negatively affected their prospects for economic and environmental sustainability in the event of self-determination or independence. Due to the misuse of natural resources and shortcomings in the administration of non-self-governing territories, complaints had been made within the framework of the Special Committee on Decolonization in regard to the situations in territories such as French Polynesia and Western Sahara. The United Nations and its specialized agencies must follow up on those issues and other similar problems in, for example, Puerto Rico.

6. Neither development nor the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could be achieved while some territories and peoples were still subject to colonial rule. Recognizing the intersectoral character of the problems faced by non-self-governing

Territories, the Special Committee on Decolonization would continue to work with the Economic and Social Council to provide assistance to those territories, as the United Nations system had a responsibility to help the most vulnerable people to protect their rights.

7. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that, as with previous draft resolutions similar to E/2016/L.25, his delegation would request a recorded vote. The United States would abstain from voting, despite agreeing in principle that United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies could provide useful support to territories that were not United Nations Member States, as long as it was permitted by the laws and policies of a given territory's administering Power. It was the responsibility of the administering Power to determine the nature of a territory's participation with the United Nations and, as the language used in the draft resolution was inconsistent with the internal arrangements of the United States in that regard, the United States could not support it.

8. **Mr. Bessedik** (Algeria) said that there was a clear contradiction between the actions and words of the United Nations with regard to non-self-governing Territories. Peoples living in those territories must be able to enjoy their rights and natural resources in line with the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions adopted by various bodies within the United Nations system, inter alia General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

9. While specialized agencies continued to provide assistance to peoples under foreign occupation, they needed to take further action; the lack of representation of such agencies at the 2016 Pacific Regional Seminar of the Special Committee on Decolonization was deplorable. Consequently, and in recognition of the specific challenges faced by peoples living under foreign occupation, his delegation supported the proposal to establish a follow-up mechanism on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). Similarly, administering Powers must uphold and respect their obligations to the peoples of non-self-governing Territories and ensure that the rights of those peoples were respected, in particular regarding the administration and exploitation of their natural resources.

10. It was incumbent upon the international community, including the United Nations system, to support and uphold the fundamental right to self-determination of the people of non-self-governing Territories and to counter misleading arguments opposing that right. The prevailing situation in the United Nations system was inadmissible as it was inconceivable that people enjoying the right to self-determination should deny that right to others.

Draft resolution E/2016/L.25: Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

11. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Observer for Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) introduced the draft resolution.

12. **The President** said that Algeria and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. **Mr. Volgarev** (Russian Federation) said that his country had consistently advocated for the right to self-determination and independence of people living in non-self-governing Territories. Consideration of that largely political issue distracted the Economic and Social Council from its main objectives. He would therefore abstain from the vote.

14. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2016/L.25.*

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Iraq, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, South Africa, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

15. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.25 was adopted by 22 votes to none, with 23 abstentions.*

16. **Mr. Gave** (France) said that, as in previous years, his delegation had abstained from voting on the draft resolution because it believed that the resolution did not fall under the purview of the work of the Economic and Social Council. It was moreover regrettable that prior consultations had not been held on the resolution, which revealed unsatisfactory working methods.

17. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that as in previous years, his delegation had abstained, on the grounds that the resolution should be implemented in accordance with the relevant pronouncements of the United Nations and the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and Special Committee on specific territories.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/71/76-E/2016/55 and E/2016/L.19)

Draft resolution E/2016/L.19: Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighteenth session

18. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.19 was adopted.*

20. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/71/76-E/2016/55).

21. *It was so decided.*

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/71/67-E/2016/51 and E/2016/31)

22. **Mr. Major** (Hungary), Chair, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, introducing the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session (E/2016/31), said that the Commission had considered two priority themes: smart cities and infrastructure, and foresight for digital development. It had also convened a ministerial roundtable on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which had recognized the instrumental role of science and technology innovation and information and communications technologies (ICTs) as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda.

23. The ministerial roundtable had highlighted the central role of ICTs in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development. Participants had reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes beyond 2015. They had likewise welcomed the remarkable evolution and diffusion of ICTs, while expressing concern at the lack of affordable access to ICTs in developing countries: for the poor, the promise of ICTs remained largely unfulfilled. The roundtable had called on all stakeholders to bridge the digital divide and to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that would stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services.

24. ICTs and science, technology and innovation all had an instrumental role to play in the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals. The successful use of technology would be facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enabled education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth. It was necessary to develop new approaches that embedded capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as crucial components of national development plans. Moreover, Governments were called upon to implement policies that supported the development of digital ecosystems that were inclusive and took into account the sociopolitical contexts of different countries.

25. During the science, technology and innovation policy reviews of Iran and Rwanda conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretariat, participants exchanged views and their national experiences in using science, technology and innovation to promote growth and development.

26. During its nineteenth session, the Commission had adopted two draft resolutions that it recommended to the Council, entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development" and "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society". Lastly, the Commission had selected "New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" and "The role of science, technology and

innovation in ensuring food security by 2030" as the priority themes for consideration at its twentieth session.

27. **Ms.** Dong **Wu** (Chief, Science and Technology Section, UNCTAD), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/71/67-E/2016/51 and Corr. 12), said that the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (A/70/125) had reaffirmed the vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

28. The report addressed three main topics: key trends in ICT development; the outcomes of the ten-year review of implementation of recommendations from the Summit; and the findings and recommendations contained in that outcome document. Regarding key trends, as of 2015, the proportion of people covered by mobile networks worldwide currently exceeded 95 per cent; further, mobile cellular subscriptions had grown from 2.2 billion to 7.1 billion since 2005. Nonetheless, the digital divide persisted. Developing countries and least developed countries in particular still lagged behind developed countries in terms of Internet access: only 6.7 per cent of developing households had Internet access, whereas 81.3 per cent of developed households had such access. Divisions also persisted along rural/urban and gender lines. There continued to be rapid changes in technology, services and governance of the Internet that led to new services and opportunities, such as cloud computing and the Internet of Things. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers had established a stewardship transition coordinating group of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority. The report also drew attention to issues concerning Internet governance such as cybersecurity and net neutrality.

29. The report of the Secretary-General highlighted the outcomes of reviews of the World Summit on the Information Society, with conclusions on key areas such as ICTs for development, bridging the digital divide, enabling environments, financial mechanisms, human rights, governance and confidence and security in ICTs. The outcome document called for close alignment between that process and the 2030 Agenda, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of ICTs to poverty eradication and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It moreover encouraged giving a prominent profile to ICTs in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

30. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development must continue to prepare its annual reports on the implementation of Summit outcomes, taking into account the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation must ensure the full involvement of all stakeholders and draw on their diverse forms of expertise.

31. The report concluded with suggestions for the international community, underscoring the need for the information society to be more inclusive. The international community must pay attention to the least developed countries, lest poor and marginalized communities be left further behind. Inclusiveness was not just about connectivity, but also about the affordability and accessibility of development and content. A deeper understanding of the evolving information society, including its impact on governments, economies and societies must be achieved. In order to develop appropriate policy responses, it was crucial to understand how ICTs were affecting economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and social equality, both positively and negatively. The need for capacity-building in data gathering and analysis, especially in developing countries, was also stressed.

32. Going forward, it was crucial to maintain multi-stakeholder engagement. Since the Summit, ICTs had become much more pervasive in society, with a transformative impact on governments, businesses and citizens. New opportunities but also new challenges and risks had emerged. As ICTs would only become more pervasive in the lead-up to 2030, their impact would likely continue to be transformative. To realize the full development potential of ICTs, those trends must be reflected and addressed in national and international development strategies, with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

33. **Ms. Al Saud** (Observer for Saudi Arabia) said that with regard to draft resolution I on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the

Information Society, her delegation believed that the proposal of the facilitator had been adopted without legal basis as it lacked the required quorum of States within the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Moreover, the Chair of the Commission had been tasked with establishing a Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation including the relevant stakeholders to implement the mandate of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society; however, the working group lacked balanced geographical representation. The expression "full involvement of all relevant stakeholders" contained in paragraph 65 of the Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society meant that all Governments must be able to participate on equal footing in the work of the Working Group, and not merely as observers. The membership of the Working Group must therefore not be limited but include all interested Member States.

34. Her delegation had raised a formal objection, asking to be included in the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation. The Economic and Social Council must send the resolution back to the Commission for further dialogue and ensure the balanced geographical representation of the Working Group.

35. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/71/76-E/2016/55).

36. *It was so decided.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its nineteenth session (E/2016/31)

37. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Draft resolution II: Science, technology and innovation for development

38. **The President** said that the draft resolutions had no programme budget implications.

39. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its nineteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission

40. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Human settlements

Draft resolution E/2016/L.23: Human settlements

41. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

42. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.23 was adopted.*

Draft resolution E/2016/L.18: Human settlements

43. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.18 was withdrawn.*

(e) Environment

44. **Mr. Ahmad** (Deputy Director, New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), introducing the Report of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/71/25), said that the resolution entitled "Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which had been adopted at the second session of the Assembly, set out the framework under which the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP would integrate its long-term contribution to review and follow up the 2030 Agenda. The three key components of the framework were the commitment to convey the main messages of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the mandate to increase the impact of relevant scientific bodies, and the mandate to increase the relevance of the Global Environmental

Outlook and its input to the work of the high-level political forum. The report also noted resolutions of the Environment Assembly concerning a broad range of other environmental issues. Dialogues between the Assembly and ministers of health from countries around the world had stressed the links between a healthy environment, human well-being and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. He drew the Council's attention to specific resolutions concerning air pollution, sound management of chemicals and waste, the proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021, and the cycle of the Assembly. The decisions taken by the Assembly at its second session reflected the vision agreed at the historic United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

45. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/71/25).

46. *It was so decided.*

(f) Population and development

47. **Ms. Skale** (Vice-Chair of the Commission on Population and Development), introducing the Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-ninth session (E/2016/25), said that at its forty-ninth session, the Commission had focused, for the first time in its history, on Chapter XII of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, entitled Technology, Research and Development, which emphasized the importance of a fact-based understanding of the relationships between population and social, economic and environmental trends, and strong national capacities in data and research. It was also the first time in a decade that Member States and other stakeholders had reviewed the Commission's methods of work. The inspiring remarks of the Secretary-General at the Commission's opening, its impressive attendance, and its engaging discussions, keynote speeches and expert panels had all served the purposes of an informed debate and resulted in a productive and successful session. Calls had been made for Governments to adopt open-data policies, national authorities to leverage new data sources and technology, the Secretary-General to improve accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data, and the United Nations Population Fund to assist countries to strengthen the demographic evidence base. Member States had reaffirmed the Commission's mandates and decided that the Commission might further review its methods of work as more information became available concerning the process of follow-up and review for the 2030 Agenda.

48. The Commission recommended to the Council the adoption of the draft decision to take note of the report on the forty-ninth session of the Commission and approve the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission, and the draft resolution entitled Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development. She also drew the Council's attention to proposals adopted by the Commission: a resolution, Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and two decisions, "Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2017 and 2018", and "Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-ninth session".

49. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Observer for Mexico) said that, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it would be important to improve census-taking, work with academia and civil society organizations in order to verify demographic trends and development indicators, and plan public infrastructure. Council work programmes should be integrated and coordinated for follow-up purposes. Open data policies should be adopted in order to promote the dissemination of microdata and make use of macrodata, technology and data processing and dissemination, subject to confidentiality safeguards that would restrict access to researchers and decision-makers. Technology would make it possible to establish georeferencing as a standard practice in demographic data gathering so as to build databases and disaggregate metadata in analyses and models.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-ninth session (E/2016/25)

50. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution: Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

51. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

52. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda for its fiftieth session

53. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(g) Public administration

54. **Mr. Castelazo** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), introducing via video link the Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session (E/2016/44), said that the Committee had emphasized the importance of policy integration based on horizontal connections between sectors and vertical linkages between various levels of government. The Committee had contributed to the high-level political forum on sustainable development by calling on local authorities to adopt local agendas that would be conducive to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Public institutions had an important role to play in ensuring that no one was left behind, which was a goal that cut across various ministries and agencies. Public administration had long faced certain challenges, such as realizing the principle of social equity. Non-discrimination, accountability and participatory decision-making were particularly important to ensure equal opportunities in Government. Additional training was needed so that parliaments and judiciaries would have the capacities necessary to fulfil their requirements in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. Corrupt practices also must be targeted and punished in order to achieve the Goals. All of those purposes called for transformative leadership and good governance. With the Council's approval, the Committee would prepare concrete policy recommendations to take into account the needs of local authorities and communities in order to equip them for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session (E/2016/44)

55. The President drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution E/2016/L.30: Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session

56. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.30 was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

57. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

58. **The President** said that he noted that there were no recommendations for action by the Council contained in the Report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2015/45).

59. **Mr. Narang** (India) pointed out that the report contained a recommendation for the future dates of the Committee's meetings. He requested clarification, assuming the Council would take note of the report, if that constituted approval of those dates. The dates were under consideration and the Group of 77 and China had made its views known. His delegation's interpretation was that the dates of the Committee's meetings would still be subject to consideration by the Council.

60. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that, in United Nations practice, taking note of reports constituted neither approval nor disapproval. It merely acknowledged the existence of the report considered by the Council.

61. **Mr. De Lara Rangel** (Observer for Mexico) said that it would be interesting to hear more specifics on the Committee's work. It appeared to have been agreed that from 2016 the Committee would meet twice a year, but the programme of work of the twelfth session included only one meeting of the Committee. Furthermore, in the past the sessions had lasted five days. Consistent with the maintenance of two sessions,

it had been suggested that each should be four days long. It was therefore unfortunate that there should be a single four-day session. That might have damaging implications, as the Committee prepared important proposals, especially for developing countries, on such subjects as the update of the practical manual, information exchange processes, base erosion and profit shifting. His delegation would closely follow the discussions on determining the dates and work programme of the Committee. There should be at least one additional session.

62. **Ms. Aueareechit** (Observer for Thailand) said that, in light of the ongoing discussions on the dates and venue for the next meetings of the Committee, and the call for the implementation of paragraph 29 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, her delegation supported draft decision E/2016/L.6, proposing that one session of the Committee should be held in New York back to back with the special meeting while another session of the Committee should be held in Geneva. The President should also scale up efforts to reach an inclusive and balanced decision. Action on the draft decision on the date and venue of the twelfth session of Committee would directly affect discussions between Member States. The decision on the venue and dates of the next session of the Committee should therefore be deferred until the full decision package on that issue was concluded. The Group of 77 and China was preparing an alternative approach and hoped to assist in finding a way forward. If the resolution containing both substantive elements on tax cooperation and the dates and venues was concluded by September 2016, there should be sufficient time for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to prepare the twelfth session of the Committee in October 2016. All sides should cooperate and be flexible.

63. **Mr. Morgan** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that in Addis Ababa, it had been agreed that the Committee should meet twice a year. It was urgent to decide the dates of the next meeting of the Committee. He requested further clarification on how the Council intended to address that matter.

64. **The President** said that taking note did not mean predetermining the dates and venue of the meeting.

65. **Mr. Aguirre Vacchieri** (Chile) said that it was not clear whether taking note of the report was neutral since it contained a decision already adopted by the Committee in a previous session, according to which it had decided that a meeting would be held in October in Geneva. He asked whether that decision of the Committee was being validated.

66. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Council practice was to take action and decide on the venue and date of the meeting. There would be negotiations and in September a decision would be made by the delegations on the dates and venues for the two sessions of the Committee.

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(i) Cartography (E/CONF.104/9, E/2016/66 and E/2016/L.28)

67. **Mr. Ocampo** (Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Management at its fifth session, and Vice-President of the Mexican Institute for Statistics and Geography), introducing draft resolution E/2016/L.28, said that the draft resolution reflected a broad consensus on the recommendations on geospatial information management made by the Committee of Experts and subsidiary bodies. The draft resolution was sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Jamaica, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

68. The draft resolution also reflected the advances achieved by the Committee in the five years since it had been established. It was well placed to contribute to the work of the United Nations, especially in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

69. The Committee's efforts to rationalize the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council in the area of geospatial information management had been welcomed by Member States. Furthermore, the establishment of a strong regional infrastructure made up of five regional technical committees reflected the importance of coordination and capacity-building in geospatial information management especially in developing countries.

70. The draft resolution called on the Council to strengthen the mandate of the Committee of Experts;

bring to an end the formal activities of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences in order to avoid duplication of the work of the Committee of Experts at the global level; include the annual session of the Committee of Experts in the calendar of United Nations conferences and meetings, within the framework of the Economic and Social Council, and encourage Member States to make voluntary contributions and, where necessary, ask the Secretary-General to mobilize additional resources to support the activities of the Committee; change the name of the Council agenda item entitled "Cartography" to "Geospatial Information"; and invite the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to continue to submit reports under the agenda item entitled "Geographical Names".

71. The Committee of Experts should report to the Council within five years on the implementation of the present resolution and on its efforts to work with the United Nations system as a whole to integrate geospatial and statistical information systems. For that purpose, the institutional mechanisms of the Committee should be strengthened.

72. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Germany, Mexico and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors.

73. **Mr. Imada** (Japan) said that the word "with" should be added before "any other costs" in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution.

74. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.28 was adopted as amended.*

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.